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Customer No.: 07278

Docket No.: 03702/0200425-US0

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Masanori Igarashi, et al.

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: Concurrently herewith

For: REAR VEHICLE BODY STRUCTURE

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In order to comply with 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a
copy of Form PTO/SB/08A and copies of the documents listed thereon.

In accordance with MPEP Sections 609 and 707.05(b), it is requested
that each document cited (including any cited in applicant's specification which is

not repeated on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A) be given thorough consideration and that it be cited of record in the prosecution history of the present application by initialing Form PTO/SB/08A next to the document. Such initialing is requested even if the Examiner does not consider a cited document to be sufficiently pertinent to use in a rejection, or otherwise does not consider it to be prior art for any reason, or even if the Examiner does not believe that the guidelines for citation have been fully complied with. This is requested so that each document becomes listed on the face of the patent issuing on the present application.

The undersigned is also enclosing herewith an English translation of the abstract for each of the foreign language documents identified in Form PTO/SB/08A. It is believed that the applicant in the above-identified patent application has therefore met the "concise explanation" requirement of 37 C.F.R. 1.98.

This submission is filed concurrently herewith of the filing of the application.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR 1.56, but the citation of such document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner, in the normal course of

examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104(a) and in the course of each search, will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

It is believed that no fee is due. However, if the Commissioner determines that a fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 04-0100 for any deficiency.

Early and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 22, 2003


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| Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i> | | | | Complete if Known | |
| | | | | Application Number | Not Yet Assigned |
| | | | | Filing Date | Concurrently Herewith |
| | | | | First Named Inventor | Masanori Igarashi |
| | | | | Art Unit | N/A |
| | | | | Examiner Name | Not Yet Assigned |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | 03702/0200425-US0 |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
| | | Country Code ³ | Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | BA | JP-8-142909-A1 | | 06-04-1996 | Onda et al. | | X |
| | BB | JP-2001-180533-A1 | | 07-03-2001 | Toda et al. | | X |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---|----------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | T ² |
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